

Appln. No. 10/004,758

Attorney Docket No. 10541-636

I. Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] Figures 7 and 8 depict another embodiment of a pinion in accordance with the present invention. As shown in Figures 7 and 8, starter pinion 212 has similar members as pinion 12 described above. For example, inner surface 32, end face 50, gears 36, and outer surface 37 of starter pinion 12 are similar to inner surface 232, end face 250, gears 236, and outer surface 237, respectively, of starter pinion 212. In this embodiment, primary edges 252 and groove 254 are shown to be substantially linear. As shown, secondary edge ~~254~~ 256 integrally connects with primary edge 252 and radially extends along end face 250. As in the embodiment described above, pinion 212 is configured to rotatably and linearly move along a respective output shaft during engine startup. It is to be noted that the pinion described above may include any other starter pinion for any suitable engine or starter assembly having one or a plurality of pinions without falling beyond the scope or spirit of the present invention.